

The SHEPPARD SENATOR

Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, home of the 82nd Training Wing and 80th Flying Training Wing

Inside

Air Force leaders offer holiday messages...Pages 3,4

Centers available as tax season begins.....Page 8

In the news

Exodus causes closures, changes in hours

Several offices, stores and services have changed hours during the annual Holiday Exodus.

For schedules regarding Exodus hours, see pages 5, 6, 9 and 18.

Civilian pay adjustments coming in 2004

Air Force civilian employees should see an average 2 percent increase in their January paychecks, with more likely on the way.

A 2 percent increase for general schedule employees will go into effect automatically and that they are ready to process an expected total 4.1 percent pay increase if and when it passes congress. The additional 2.1 percent average pay increase would be retroactive to the effective date, which should be Jan. 11, officials said.

New Sheppard Senator to be unveiled in January

In an effort to better serve readers, a new and improved Sheppard Senator will hit the stands with the first edition of 2004.

The new-look Senator will give the staff the ability to have a better layout and design that is more appealing to readers.

Please let us know what you think.

No Senator Dec. 26 or Jan. 2

There will not be a publication of the Sheppard Senator Dec. 26 or Jan. 2 due to Christmas and New Years.

Please plan accordingly.

From wood to stealth

People, technology made first 100 years successful

By Mr. John Ingle

Editor

Blistering cold winds swept across the sand dunes of a desolate North Carolina coastline 100 years ago.

Two unknown bicycle builders from Ohio and a handful of men stood in the cold waiting for the opportunity to launch themselves, and the world for that matter, into an era that would change the world.

The first 12 seconds of powered flight turned into 100 years of advancement for something that most people in 1903 thought was impossible.

"Look how far we've come," Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr., 82nd Training Wing commander, said during Sheppard's Centennial of Flight ceremonies Wednesday. "We've come from wood (and) cloth and now to stealth technology."

At 10:35 a.m. EST, the precise time of Orville and Wilbur Wright's 12-second flight, four T-37s flew over the flagpole of the 82nd TRW, officially marking 100 years of flight. Four T-38s followed seconds later on the same path.

General Rooney said it took commitment from the group of men 100 years ago to stand in frigid weather and fulfill a dream, just as it took commitment from the participants of the ceremony to stand in the cold.

Three flights stood in formation as a sort of symbol of the comments made about where powered flight has been and where it is going.

One flight was made up of students in the 82nd TRW while another was made up of instructors and student pilots from the 80th Flying Training Wing.

In the middle was a flight made up of the people who had a hand in the contin-



Photo by Ms. Sandy Wassenmiller

Retired Master Sgt. Chuck Hartney, a World War II veteran and prisoner of war, passes on a silver saber to Airman Brianne Besabe, the most junior airman on Sheppard, during a cake cutting ceremony at the community center Wednesday. The ceremony celebrated 100 years of powered flight.

uation of military and civilian aviation. They were 25 retirees who culminated more than 500 years of active duty service combined.

During a ceremony that preceded the flyby, Col. H.D. Polumbo Jr., 80th FTW commander, said aviation pioneers such as the Wrights have forged a great legacy. He added that legacy of precision, discipline and skill has transcended to today's aviators.

As the leader of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program, Colonel Polumbo said it wasn't just American aviators who succeeded in the advancement of aircraft.

"Everyone was trying, too, over the years to develop aircraft," he said.

For that reason, German, Canadian, Dutch, Danish, British, Portuguese, Italian, Turkish, Greek, Norwegian and Belgian pilots participated in the flyby.

The time-honored tradition of the past ushering in the future was also seen during the ceremonies.

Retired Master Sgt. Chuck Hartney, the most senior retired military member at ceremony, handed a saber to Airman Brianne Besabe, the most junior member of Team Sheppard, during a cake cutting ceremony.

Maj. Chuck Kowitz, the event coordinator, said the passing of the saber symbolized the commitment Sheppard and the Air Force has to the continuation of airpower.



Team Sheppard Training 2003



**82nd Training Wing: 78,747 students trained to replenish America's combat capability
80th Flying Training Wing: 177 combat pilots trained for the NATO Alliance**





Photo by Mr. Lynn Bullard

Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr., 82nd Training Wing commander, presents a certificate of appreciation to Tech. Sgt. David Greene, an instructor at the 366th Training Squadron, during a recent 82nd Training Wing staff agency meeting.

Action Line 6-2000, action.line@sheppard.af.mil

The 82nd Training Wing's Action Line is your direct line to me for any concerns and suggestions you have.

I am personally involved in every reply, and I am committed to making Sheppard Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

Before you call the Action Line, however, I ask that you give your chain of command or other base agencies an opportunity to work your concerns. If you still do not receive a satisfactory response, call me at 6-2000, or send an e-mail to

action.line@sheppard.af.mil. Please include your name and telephone number.

Those concerns with a wide impact at Sheppard may be published in *The Sheppard Senator*.

AAFES6-2211
AF suggestion office.....6-IDEA
AFI 36-2903 issues6-2984
Civil engineer/housing6-2846
Facilities maintenance.....6-6524
Civilian pay6-4890
Commissary.....6-2750
Comm squadron6-5524
Dress and appearance.....6-2984
Education office6-6231

Family support6-4358
Fraud, waste and abuse.....6-2222
Inspector general6-203
Military pay6-1851
MEO6-2360
Patient advocacy.....6-7791
Safety.....6-4149
Security Forces6-2379
Services Division6-2089
CDC.....6-4244
Youth center6-5395
Golf course6-6369
Billeting, gyms, athletics, and dining hall6-7429
South bowling center6-2170
Victim assistance6-7206
Base straight talk line.....6-4438

Rooney, Polumbo offer holiday message

Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr.

82nd Training Wing commander

and
Col. H.D. Polumbo Jr.

80th Flying Training Wing commander

Team Sheppard:

This holiday season our men and women in uniform got an early Christmas present — the capture of Saddam Hussein. This historic event couldn't have come at a better time.

Like the coming joys of the holidays, during the dark of winter, hope and faith sprung forth to warm our souls. As you saw during the tree lighting, Team Sheppard is a big part of the war on terrorism...and we're getting the mission done!

Each year, Americans celebrate this time of year as an opportunity to practice their faith, spend time with their family and relax and recharge their spirit. While taking time for themselves, members of Team Sheppard were sure to think of others

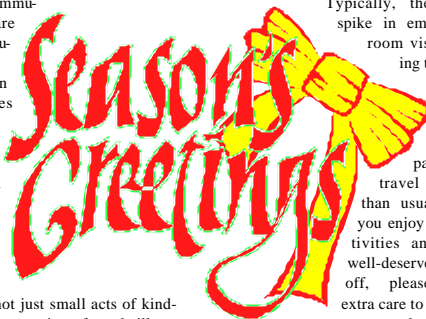
in the community, who are not as fortunate.

More than 200 families have already been touched with "Give a Child a Christmas" and "Angel Tree" programs.

These were not just small acts of kindness, but an outpouring of goodwill.

Literally two truckloads of bicycles, toys, clothing and gifts were distributed just this past week. The Wichita Falls Fire Department said they have never seen an organization address the needs of so many people before.

Team Sheppard: WOW! — you continue to amaze us with your generosity.



Typically, there's a spike in emergency room visits during the holidays as families cook, party and travel more than usual. As you enjoy the festivities and your well-deserved time off, please take extra care to buckle-up, use designated

drivers and always think "safety first."

The Wingman Program could save your life, or the life of another, during this break in training.

If you're a student departing as part of our massive exodus, remember to keep your travel times within the limits outlined in your AETC Form 29B. We want

every one of you to arrive alive and return ready to learn.

And while you're home...thank your family for their support. Without their solid foundation and love, our mission accomplishment would not be possible — thanks Mom and Dad!

Look out for the all-new Sheppard Senator coming the first week of January. It'll be bolder, bigger, brighter and more informative. You'll hear from us from time to time, but more importantly, you'll see more of your co-workers and friends in expanded sections and full-length stories.

Look for it when you return safely from the holiday break.

Until then, have a safe and happy holiday.

God Bless,

Brig. Gen. Arthur J. Rooney Jr.
and

Col. H. D. Polumbo Jr.



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82nd Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr.

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AF leaders send holiday message

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The following is a holiday message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

"During this holiday season, Americans have placed their hopes for peace with those who have answered the call to secure freedom: the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines of our nation's armed forces.

"Indeed, there is no mission more vital and no cause more noble than to be a defender of freedom, particularly when the values we cherish are under attack and when our citizens are going into harm's way.

"We know this has been a challenging year, as we remain engaged on several fronts supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Over the past year, we have traveled to many places just to look you in the eye and to offer our thanks for what you're doing for the Air Force and for

America. No matter where we go we're always amazed with your talent, dedication and professionalism.

"Your service has been stellar. You are why we have the best air and space force the world has ever known.

"We are also humbled by the sacrifices made by your families as you work long hours or deploy far from home. Our families are the source of support that enables us to serve with pride and enthusiasm and defend the democratic ideals of our great country. During this special season, our thoughts and prayers will be with them.

"Americans are grateful for your selfless service. You have earned their trust and support through your courage, bravery and sacrifice. And, simply put, we are honored to serve with you.

"It is our hope that you will have a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year."



Roche



Jumper

Top AF enlisted member sends seasons greeting

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The following is a holiday message from Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray:

"To our airmen stationed at home and abroad and their families – Sherry and I send our warmest wishes to you this holiday season. It is an honor for us to serve in our United States Air Force with each of you.

"The holidays bring to mind families gathered around tables stuffed with food and children opening gifts while parents look on. We know that deployments will cause many military families to have an empty seat at the table this year.

"If you are one of those families, please know that your sacrifice does not go unnoticed. It is because of you and fellow airmen, soldiers, sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen that Americans can gather, worship, and celebrate in freedom.

"As we celebrate this holiday season and prepare to usher in a new year, Sherry and I thank you for your continued dedication and commitment. May God richly bless you, your family and our great nation."



Murray

View from the Top: An extraordinary 2003

By Gen. Don Cook

Commander of Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – As we close out another very eventful year, I thought it appropriate I share some thoughts with you regarding the command's performance this past year.

I'm proud to report the men and women of Air Education and Training Command met the goal in providing well-trained, combat-ready airmen for our Air Force. We all know the future security environment remains uncertain.

But I am very confident that because of the outstanding work each of you has done, and will continue to do, the First Command will ensure our Air Force



Cook

is ready with the right people, the right skills and the right training to address any contingency.

AETC continues to be engaged in operations in Iraq, as well as Operation Enduring

Freedom in Afghanistan. Since the shocking events of 9-11, AETC has deployed more than 9,300 people in direct support of the war on terrorism.

Considering our education and training mission and our small pool of 22,000 deployable positions, this substantial contribution represents about 1,000 people deployed at any given time.

At present, we have nearly 2,000 people deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Among those numbers are AETC security forces, communications specialists, transportation engineers and emergency medical care professionals to name only a few.

Our airmen, many of them instructors in their respective

career fields, are committed to expeditionary operations and are doing their jobs exceedingly well.

A short e-mail written by an AETC instructor nurse who was crewed with two new medical technicians serves to illustrate the point.

"We flew our first mission the other day," the nurse wrote. "We picked up a 26-year old security policeman with an AK-47 gunshot wound in the abdomen – a lot of internal injuries. Met him at the back of the C-130 with engines running. Took off standing up while resuscitating him. He looked good by the time we landed. A fairly routine mission, post severe trauma resuscitation – no big deal!"

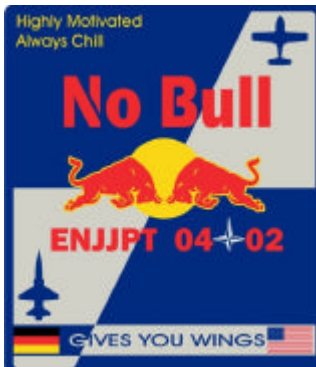
The nurse's e-mail is repre-

sentative of just how well our people have done and continue to do. Though an instructor, it was like second nature to this nurse and the med-tech team – they did what they were trained to do. In doing so, they saved the life of an American soldier.

Other teams like them have treated more than 350 critically hurt soldiers and airmen and medically evacuated nearly 2,500 injured with an unprecedented low mortality rate of less than 1 percent.

The men and women of AETC have played a significant role in the war on terrorism on the home front as well. Our intelligence schoolhouse at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas, now trans-

See COOK, Page 22



Class 04-02 grads out

Twenty-three pilots will graduate from the 80th Flying Training Wing's Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program during ceremonies tonight at 7 p.m. at the community center.

ENJJPT trains undergraduate pilots for nine NATO countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey and the United States. In addition to these countries, Canada, Greece, Portugal and the United Kingdom provide flight instructors for the pro-

gram. As many as 250 pilots complete the 55-week program each year.

Today's graduation of ENJJPT Class 04-02 includes 18 pilots from the United States and three from Germany.

The guest speaker for tonight's graduation is Brig. Gen. General Dierk-Peter Merklingshaus, commander of the German air force command, United States and Canada. General Merklingshaus completed pilot training at Sheppard in 1967. He flew the F-104G and the F-4F Phantom.



2ND LT. ISAAC BELL
UNITED STATES
T-37



2ND LT. DUSTIN BROWN
UNITED STATES
F-16



2ND LT. JOHN CALDWELL
UNITED STATES
F-16



2ND LT. JOHN CHAPMAN
UNITED STATES
B-1



CAPT. JOSEPH CHENNAULT
UNITED STATES
F-15C



2ND LT. CURTIS DOUGHERTY
UNITED STATES
F-15E



2ND LT. BRAD HUEBINGER
UNITED STATES
F-15C



2ND LT. STEPHEN KAMINSKI
UNITED STATES
F-16



LT. RENE KANNE
GERMANY
TORNADO



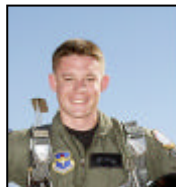
2ND LT. JAKOB MAEGELE
GERMANY
TORNADO



2ND LT. FABIAN MARSISKE
GERMANY
TORNADO



1ST LT. OLIVIA MITCHELL
UNITED STATES
T-38



1ST LT. CHRISTOPHER MOELLER
UNITED STATES
F-16



1ST LT. BENJAMIN ORTON
UNITED STATES
F-15E



1ST LT. RYAN PELKOLA
UNITED STATES
F-15C



2ND LT. ANTHONY RUSSO
UNITED STATES
F-16



1ST LT. KENDALL SPENCER
UNITED STATES
F-16



1ST LT. GEOFFREY STEEVES
UNITED STATES
B-1



2ND LT. DEREK SWERDA
UNITED STATES
F-15C



1ST LT. BRANDON TELLEZ
UNITED STATES
F-15C



1ST LT. MATTHEW TUZEL
UNITED STATES
F-16

Chapel services scheduled to celebrate Christmas

Various Catholic and Protestant services are scheduled during the holidays.

A Christmas Eve Family Vigil Mass is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in the north chapel. There will not be a daily mass Christmas day.

A Holiday Day Mass-Solemnity of Mary will be held at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31 in the north chapel.

Protestant worshipers can attend a Candlelight service Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. in the south chapel.

A New Years Watch Night Service will be held Dec. 31 in the south chapel.

For more information, call 6-4370.

Holidays cause hour/personnel changes at hospital

The Christmas/New Year's holiday schedule has caused hour changes at some locations in the hospital.

The hospital dining facility will have hour changes Dec. 22-24 and Dec. 29-31. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to

12:30 p.m.

The dining facility will be closed to non-hospital personnel Jan. 5 for a hospital function. Normal operating hours will resume Jan. 6.

The main pharmacy will be at minimum staffing from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 22-26 and Dec. 29 to Jan. 2.

During the one-hour period, prescriptions will be accepted, but no pharmaceuticals will be dispensed.

Book to be written about women in the Iraqi war

The Air Force has approved support for the book "Women Write the War" to be written by Bee Pederson.

The author's goal is recount and weave together true stories about the Iraqi war from a woman's perspective. Ms. Pederson is looking for responses from women serving on active-duty during the war as well as the mothers, wives, sisters, fiancés and significant others of those who served.

Women who wish to share how wartime experiences have affected them may submit an

essay of 3,000 words or less of happy, sad, funny or proud anecdotes, poems, short stories or letters.

If interested, please call 2nd Lt. Amber Millerchip, Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, at (210) 652-4400 for more details. Submissions are due Jan. 26.

One shuttle route available during Exodus

The shuttle bus system will have only one route from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2.

The Red Route will run as scheduled during the Holiday Exodus. The Blue Route will not run again until Jan. 2.

A taxi service is available for individuals that might be affected by the cancellation of the Blue Route.

Union to hold meeting

American Federation of Government Employees Local 1731 will be holding the next monthly union member's meeting in the community center at 4:45 p.m. Jan. 5.

The meeting will be in the small conference room next to

the snack bar. These meetings are only open to members of Local 1731 or perspective members escorted and presented by a member in good standing.

For more information, contact the Local 1731 representative in your immediate area.

Sheppard chosen as asthma test site

Sheppard has been selected by the Department of Defense, Wilford Hall and TRICARE Southwest to be one of the clinical locations for a new pediatric asthma study.

The research will examine the effectiveness of a call-based center for disease management program in lowering acute episodes of the asthmatic population.

The program initiates a proactive education and monitoring system to better educate families and providers regarding asthma therapies and to help maintain optimum health and improve quality of life issues.

For more information or to volunteer, call Anna Penny-cuff, at 6-1737.

Commissary hours change for holidays

The commissary will have various hours and closures during the holidays.

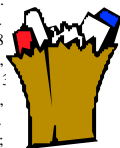
Special hours Christmas week:

Dec. 21, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 22, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 23, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 24, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 25, Closed; Dec. 26, Closed; Dec. 27, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New Year's week:

Dec. 29 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 30 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Jan. 1, Closed; Jan. 2 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Jan. 3 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Happy Holidays.



Student activities:

Happenings in the community

Student center

Exodus hours

Saturday and Sunday: Open 24 hours video, karaoke, jam session, free popcorn, snacks and drinks

Monday through Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Thursday: noon to 8 p.m.

Dec. 26 through Dec. 27: 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Dec. 28: noon to 10 p.m., NFL football video, pool tournament

Dec. 29 through Dec. 31: 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Jan. 1: noon - 8 p.m.

Jan. 2 through Jan. 3: Open 24 hours, Club BDU dance - 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Red River Cafe

The café offers pizzas, calzones, hamburgers, chicken, a variety of salads and sub sandwiches including all-new Philly steak sandwich, a variety of drinks plus 14 flavors of ice cream and sherbet.



Wednesday and Thursday: 4:30 to 10 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday and holidays: Noon to 9 p.m.

Community center

Pool tournament

The community center has pool tournaments every Saturday at 5 p.m. The fee is \$2 per person. First- and second-place winners win trophies. Call 6-7695 for more information.

Video night

The community center has a free video night every night beginning at 5 p.m. on the big screen TV in the lounge on the second floor. For more information, call 6-3866.

Birthday dinners

Students who are having a birthday this month and are on subsistence in kind are invited to celebrate their special day on the Friday of their choice for dinner. Students can contact the dining facility manager/supervisor, or call 6-2080 for more information.



Student ministry

Solid Rock Cafe

Solid Rock Cafe is open every day at Bldg. 450.

Monday through Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 to 11:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 9:30 p.m.

Sunday: Protestant Bible study, 4 p.m.; Contemporary Praise Worship Service, 5 p.m.

Monday: Time for Tots, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Chapel Ropes Meeting, Tuesday, 11:15 and 4 p.m.; Catholic Mass, 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday: Parents and Tots, 10 a.m.; Parenting class, 3 p.m.

Thursday: Catholic Mass, 11:30 a.m.; Couples' Communication class, 2:30 p.m.

Saturday: Praise Band Rehearsal, 10 a.m.; Solid Rock Saturday Meal, 6:15 p.m., first and third Saturdays every month.

Pool tournament

Solid Rock Café is having a free pool tournament for students Saturday starting at 10 a.m.

Dining facility Exodus hours

The dining facility in Bldg. 516 will be the only facility open during the holiday exodus. All others will be closed through the holidays and resume normal operations by Jan. 4.

Dec. 20 - 21:

Breakfast: 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 22-24:

Breakfast: 6 a.m. - 8 a.m.
Lunch: 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec. 25 - 28:

Breakfast: 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 29 - 31:

Breakfast: 6 a.m. - 8 a.m.
Lunch: 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Jan. 1 - 2:

Breakfast: 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 3:

Breakfast: 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson

Staff Sgt. Robert Armentrout takes a fuel sample to check for water particles. Armentrout is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group.

Fuels airmen keep aircraft fighting

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson

455th Expeditionary Operations Group Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFPN) -- Working out of a tiny corner of a dilapidated, Soviet-built aircraft hangar here, four airmen work around the clock to do their part in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

They are the Air Force Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant specialists assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group.

The POL team is made up of experts in fuels and cryogenics operations, accounting and quality assurance, and they are responsible for keeping the A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet and other Coalition Joint Task Force 180 aircraft ready to fly.

"(We) get the right quantity and quality of fuel and cryogenics at the right time to deployed units conducting forward combat, deterrence and surveillance operations," said Master Sgt. Mark Knapp, fuels superintendent who is deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy. "Our primary responsibility is to support the A-10 mission, but the joint environment provides us an opportunity to lend a hand to our sister services and other coalition forces."

Flightline servicing here offers a unique set of challenges for even the most experienced fuels troop. Limited ramp space to maneuver refueling trucks; and constant cargo, vehicle and aircraft movement require operators to perform with the highest degree of vigilance.

Nighttime brings a near-total darkness to the flightline, along with a bone-chilling cold. In response, the team dons their night-vision goggles and continues working in a world where everything is represented in

shades of green, without peripheral vision or depth perception.

The fuels airmen are also keenly aware they are driving their giant, fuel-laden trucks on an airfield where one misstep could bring very costly results. The surrounding unpaved areas are littered with mine fields, and the primary travel routes are within sight of the base perimeter. Since early November, two contract fuel delivery trucks have been hit by insurgent small-arms fire.

Add to these challenges the 24-hour operations, and some people may expect such a small crew to fold under pressure. But the four specialists have proven their mettle and met or exceeded all of their mission requirements, officials said.

The men operate on 12-hour shifts, but visitors to their control center would most likely find them working and training together, regardless of who is supposed to be off.

"Working with such a small shop requires each of us to learn all aspects of the mission," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Lund, a refueling equipment operator and the team's chief accountant. He is deployed from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. "Duty hours don't really matter. We're here to get the job done."

That job means the airmen deliver about 450,000 gallons, or 3 million pounds, of jet fuel per month; that is more than 100,000 pounds of fuel each day.

"The fuels mission here is seamless and goes relatively unnoticed," said Lt. Col. Pat Lee, 354th EOG vice commander and an A-10 pilot. "They bust their butts to keep the jets ready to go."

"It really takes a complete effort from all flightline support teams to get wheels-up, bombs-down," Knapp said. "No fuel, no flight; no flight, no fight."

View From The Top

Life is too precious

By Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr.

Vice Commander of Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – As the festive holiday season quickly approaches, my family and I, like most people, look forward with anticipation to the fellowship of sharing with each other all this special season has to offer.

But I am also aware, concerned and saddened that during such a cheerful time there are some in our Air Force family who succumb to feelings of loneliness, hopelessness and that their lives are inconsequential. These feelings can be triggered by any number of circumstances, but the emotional stress it causes is sometimes the catalyst that drives people to intentionally hurt themselves.

As a family, we all must be concerned about this. We are collectively responsible for the health and well being of all our Air Force family members.

When one of our own has lost connectivity to our family we have a moral obligation to do all we can to nurture them and help them overcome feelings of despair. But above all else, we must help them understand that harming themselves is not the answer.

If you are aware of someone who is experiencing feelings of depression or loneliness, especially during this time of year, it is paramount you take them under your wing and make sure they know they are not alone.

There are people to go to such as life skills support centers, family, friends, chaplains, mental health professionals, family support, child and youth services, health and wellness centers and family advocacy.

These teammates are nearby with the professional capabilities and a commitment to help.

But, making the choice and the conscious effort to connect with those who can help is often the toughest job. That's why all of us must stay engaged with our people over the upcoming holiday season, and remain vigilant to any signs of loneliness or depression that could result in suicidal behavior.

Every person in our Air Force family is invaluable to the Air Force mission. We could not be the world's most respected air and space force we are today without each and every one of you.

Each individual's value as a person is unique and precious. We must cherish that and ensure all our people understand the singular worth they have.

In the spirit of this special season, I ask you to take special care of each other. I ask that if a situation warrants it, you make the hard choice and take the responsibility to prevent any loss to our Air Force family.

My family joins me in wishing each of you the very best this season has to offer. Stay safe, stay engaged and please take care of each other!

(General Hopper is also the chairman of the AETC Community Action Information Board.)



Don't let this happen to you. Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 6-AADD for a ride home after a night out.



Tax season inches closer

*Sheppard Law Center's
VITA program
offers free assistance*



The Sheppard Tax Center at Bldg. 1121 will open Jan. 12 to offer free tax assistance.

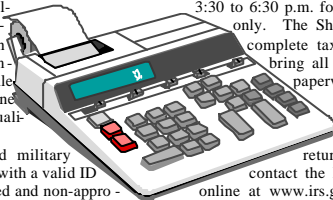
In conjunction with the IRS, the Sheppard Law Center administers the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, in which trained volunteers complete and electronically file tax returns in a one-on-one session for those who qualify.

Any active or retired military member, family member with a valid ID card and DoD appropriated and non-appropriated fund employees (but not contractors) qual-

ify for the assistance.

The hours will be Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for all qualified individuals and 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. for students only. Walk-ins only. The Sheppard Law center cannot complete tax forms if members don't bring all of the necessary financial paperwork.

For information about payments to or from the IRS (including prior years' returns) and a tax transcript contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or online at www.irs.gov. (*The Sheppard Law Center provided information for this article.*)



What you need to bring....

- ☐ DoD ID card
- ☐ Social Security cards
- ☐ W2(s)—remember, you will receive a separate W2 for any DITY moves made in 2003
- ☐ All other pertinent financial records you may have, such as:
 - ☐ Advance Child Tax Credit notice (call 1-800-829-1040 to find out if you have this)
 - ☐ 1099s
 - ☐ Social Security income forms
 - ☐ Stocks, bonds, mortgages and other income information
 - ☐ Last year's tax returns (if you have them)
 - ☐ Bank account number
 - ☐ Bank's routing number

Services scale back hours for Holiday Exodus

Officers club	Dec. 20 – Jan. 4	Closed
Enlisted club	Dec. 24 – 27	Closed
	Dec. 30 and Jan. 1	Closed
Auto Skills Center	Dec. 21 – Jan. 3	Closed
Ceramic Shop	Dec. 22 – Jan. 3	Closed
CDC	Dec. 22 – 24	6:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Dec. 25 – 26	Closed
	Dec. 29 – 31	6:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Jan. 1 – 2	Closed
CAC	Dec. 19 – 24	Open 24 hours
	Dec. 25 – 28	Closed
	Dec. 29 – 31	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
	Jan. 1	Closed
	Jan. 2	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
	Jan. 3	6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
	Jan. 4	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
N. Fitness Center	Dec. 20 – Jan. 4	Closed
S. Fitness Center	Dec. 20 – Jan. 4	5 a.m. – 10p.m

ITT	Dec. 20 – 21	Closed
	Dec. 22 – 24	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
	Dec. 25 – 28	Closed
	Dec. 29 – 31	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
	Jan. 1	Closed
	Jan. 2	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
	Jan. 3 – 4	Closed
Library	Dec. 20 – 24	12 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Dec. 25	Closed
	Dec. 26 – 31	12 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Jan. 1	Closed
	Jan. 2 – 4	12 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Outdoor Rec.	Dec. 20 – Jan. 4	Closed
Skeet range	Dec. 25 – Jan. 1	Closed
N. Bowling Lanes	Dec. 20 – Jan. 3	Closed
S. Bowling Lanes	Dec. 20	11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
	Dec. 21	11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
	Dec. 22 – 23	11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
	Dec. 24	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Dec. 25	Closed
	Dec. 26 – 31	11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
	Jan. 1	12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

	Jan. 2	11 a.m. – 9 p.m.
	Jan. 3	11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Wind Creek Golf Course		
Pro Shop	Dec. 20 – 23	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Dec. 24	8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
	Dec. 25	Closed
	Dec. 26 – 30	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Dec. 31	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Jan. 1	Sunrise – 2:30 p.m.
Snack Bar	Dec. 20 – 23	7 a.m. – 2 p.m.
	Dec. 24	7 a.m. – 11 a.m.
	Dec. 25	Closed
	Dec. 26 – 31	7 a.m. – 2 p.m.
	Jan. 1	7 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Youth Center	Dec. 22 – 24	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Dec. 25 – 27	Closed
	Dec. 29 – 31	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Jan. 1	Closed
Student Center	Dec. 20 – 21	Open 24 hours
	Dec. 22 – 24	10:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.
	Dec. 25	12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
	Dec. 26 – 27	10:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.
	Dec. 28	12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
	Dec. 29 – 31	10:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.
	Jan. 1	12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
	Jan. 2	Open 24 hours

Life insurance premium rates to increase

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – Some Air Force people covered by Federal Employees Group Life Insurance will see an increase in premiums in January.

Civilian employees in the Option B 70 to 80 or older age bands are slated for the increase the first full pay period of the new year, said Janet Thomas of the Air Force Personnel Center's civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

Today's generally lower mortality rates are the reason for the FEGLI premium changes that began last January, Office of Personnel Management officials said.

Employees may cancel or decrease Option B coverage at any time, but that opportunities to pick it up again are limited. To avoid paying the

Option B Rate Table for 2004 (cost per \$1,000 of coverage)

<u>Age Band</u>	<u>Biweekly Rate</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>
70 to 74	\$1.03, up from 87 cents	\$2.232, up from \$1.885
75 to 79	\$1.43, up from \$1.07	\$3.098, up from \$2.318
80 and older	\$1.83, up from \$1.27	\$3.965, up from \$2.752

increased premium, elections should be submitted by Jan. 10 via the Employee Benefits Information System Web application at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm, or the BEST automated phone system (800) 616-3775.

There are two types of life insurance under the FEGLI Program: basic and optional. The basic insurance amount is based on actual current pay.

All eligible employees are enrolled in basic coverage unless they waive it. Age does not affect the cost of coverage.

The three types of optional insurance include: Option A, additional insurance coverage of \$10,000; Option B, additional insurance coverage in multiples of annual pay; and Option C, family insurance for spouse and eligible children. The cost of optional insurance does depend on age. Optional

insurance premiums are based on five-year age bands beginning at age 35. The last age band for Option A is 60 and older. The last age band for Options B and C is 80 and older.

Additional information can be found on the BEST home page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/fegli.htm and the OPM FEGLI Web page at www.opm.gov/insure/life.

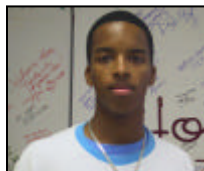
BEST counselors are available to answer questions weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST at (800) 616-3775. Hearing impaired employees may call the TDD line at (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio. Overseas employees may use the toll-free direct access number for the country that they are in, and then (800) 997-2378.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

**It's
coming!
See the
all-new
Sheppard
Senator
Jan. 9.**

Soundoff

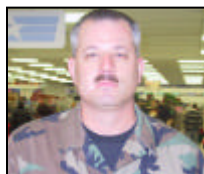
What's your favorite family tradition on Christmas?



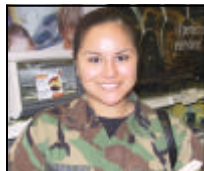
"My favorite tradition is eating Christmas dinner at my mom's house,"
Amn Kevin Satchell,
82nd Operations Support Squadron



"I like to bake cookies with my children,"
2nd Lt. Deanna Phillips
360th Training Squadron



"Putting up the Christmas tree with my children while listening to Christmas music,"
Master Sgt. Tommy Furman,
82nd Civil Engineer Squadron



"My favorite tradition is opening presents,"
Senior Airman Marissa Pagoaga,
82nd Contracting Squadron

If you would like your answer printed in *The Sheppard Senator*, call us at 6-7246 or e-mail us at sheppardsenator@sheppard.af.mil.

Sheppard Spotlight

15 lines of fame

1. Name: Emanuele Chiadroni

2. Rank: first lieutenant

3. Organization and position:
80th Operations Support Squadron military training officer, T-37 instructor pilot.

4. Hometown: Roma, Italy.

5. Married or single (include your family if you'd like):
Married to Barbara with one boy, Stefano.

6. Hobbies/Favorite thing(s) to do in your free time: Soccer, and volleyball.

7. Funniest childhood memory: Playing soccer and going to the airport looking at the airplanes.

8. Why did you join the Air Force? I wanted to be a fighter pilot.

9. Why do you stay in the Air Force? I can realize my dreams... to be a pilot.

10. Date Arrived at Sheppard: April 19, 2000.



1st Lt. Emanuele Chiadroni

11. Most rewarding aspect of your job: Flying in the sky and playing with the clouds.

12. Favorite book or movie: Thrillers.

13. What is your dream vacation? Take my family all around the world.

14. If you could be anyone for one day, who would you be? David Copperfield

15. Most prized possession: A lot of friends.

Do you want to



?

Contact the health and wellness center at 6-4292 for information about the smoking cessation classes.



Daily Programming

Sheppard Today ~ 6 a.m., noon, 5 p.m.
 Air Force News ~ 6:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
 Navy/Marine News ~ 8 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m.
 Army News ~ 8:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Programming runs 24 hours on TSTV
 Channel 14. Check out the detailed
 schedule at
www.sheppard.af.mil/82trwpa

Friday

5:30 a.m. - Noble Success and Divine
 Gain
 4 p.m. - Touch the Sky: OTS and Basic
 Officer Training
 10:30 a.m. - The Grey Geese Remem-
 bered

Saturday

7 a.m. - The Sound of Freedom: The
 Berlin Airlift
 3 p.m. - The Memphis Belle
 6 p.m. - 50 Years of the Uniform Code
 of Military Justice

Sunday

9 a.m. - Base Honor Guard: A Tradition
 of Excellence
 3:45 p.m. - The Air National Guard in
 the Expeditionary Air Force

8 p.m. - Fireside Chat
Monday

9:30 a.m. - Fireside Chat
 10:30 a.m. - The Army in Action
 8:30 p.m. - The Detroit Arsenal Tank
 Plant

Tuesday

4:30 a.m. - Women Air Force Service
 Pilots
 11 a.m. - The Lance P. Sijan Story
 1 p.m. - Heroes of Combat Camera

Wednesday

2 a.m. - Wind Through the Wires: WWI
 Aviation
 10 a.m. - Airlift... working for Humanity
 9:30 p.m. - Air Power over Kosovo:
 Command and Control

Thursday

11:30 a.m. - The Centennial of Flight
 8 p.m. - Basic Underwater Demolition:
 Navy SEAL Training
 11:30 p.m. - Silver Wings, Golden
 Valor: Air Power During the Korean War

Be smart.
 Don't drink
 and drive.
 Call
 Airmen
 Against
 Drunk
 Driving at
 6-AADD.

All Natalia Smith wanted for Christmas was to spend it with her mom. But she got just a little more when...

Santa wore blue

By Airman Jacque Lickteig

Base public communication

A fifth-grade student from Fannin Elementary sits in her bedroom penning a modest "Dear Santa" letter, careful not to ask for too much.

Natalia Smith knows she might not get everything on her list, so she puts only what she really wants.

But because of the Company Grade Officers Council and other Sheppard members, Natalia's wish list was fulfilled.

Natalia was one of 130 children who came to Sheppard Dec. 12 for Give a Child a Christmas, a CGOC-sponsored program that gives Sheppard personnel the chance to give less fortunate children what they want for Christmas.

"I'm grateful for the fact that she was able to be a part of it," Maria Graves, Natalia's mother, said. "Considering what she's been through, she really deserves it."

Natalia's response to her gifts at Give a Child a Christmas was just as pure and innocent as she is — thank you.

For nine years, Natalia's sin-

gle mother has been in and out of the hospital struggling with kidney failure due to glomerular sclerosis. Ms. Graves is in the hospital six or seven times a year on average, and sometimes she stays in the hospital for months at a time.

"Natalia's had to grow up so fast because of my illness," Ms. Graves said. "She sees me go in the hospital not knowing whether I'll make it or not."

When Natalia was four or five years old, she would often check on her mother in the middle of the night to make sure she was still alive and doing well, Ms. Graves recalled as a tear rolled slowly down her cheek.

"I call her an old soul. She seems like she's been here before. She stayed strong through everything, kept her grades up and still made sure I would take a nap and eat the right foods," she said.

Natalia's maturity doesn't only show through her actions, but her understanding as well.

Her mother said she understands that Christmas isn't just about presents.

"I've talked with her about what the true meaning of Christ-



Photo by Airman Jacque Lickteig

Natalia Smith, a fifth-grade student from Fannin Elementary, sings to her mother, Maria Graves, and grandmother on the karaoke machine she got at Give a Child a Christmas.

mas is, and she has accepted it," Ms. Graves said. "She said 'It's okay, Mommy. As long as I have you here, it's okay.'"

Natalia will spend her first Christmas in two years with her mother. Ms. Graves said she was admitted into the hospital the week after Thanksgiving and didn't go home until January.

Not even a recent stay in the hospital could keep her from Natalia this year.

"This year I was determined to spend (Christmas) with my daughter and son, Allen," Ms. Graves said.

Natalia's first Christmas wish has come true so far with her mom at home and not in the hospital. Her other wish came true during Give a Child a Christmas when she got a karaoke machine and basketball.

"Words cannot even express what Give a Child a Christmas has brought into our lives. I'm so grateful. It takes a lot of pressure off of a mother to where she doesn't feel so useless," she said as tears welled up in her eyes.

While she choked back tears she added, "I feel useless

because I can't do for her the way I want to. I feel that way because I feel like all I do is sleep when I'm sick. She deserves more than what she's gotten out of life.

"Give a Child a Christmas has brought so much joy into my life and into my daughter's life. The CGOC should never stop doing what they're doing because they never know whose child they touch or whose mother they touch. They never know who is going through what and how much people appreciate a helping hand," she said.

General activities

Child development center to give parents a break

The child development center will host "Give Parents A Break" Saturday from 6 to 11 p.m. for children 6 weeks - 5 years. Those eligible include parents whose spouse is deployed, on extended TDY, has been required to work extensive extended shifts or those experiencing a family crisis such as a birth of a child, serious illness of a family member, death in the family or extended illness of a family member. For more information, call 6-2038.

Christmas carol sing-along planned at Lake Texoma

Get into the Christmas spirit while spending the holidays at Lake Texoma.

The folks at the lake have planned a Christmas carol sing-along Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Cookies and hot cider will be provided.

Exodus hours

Saturday through Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday: closed

Dec. 26 through Jan. 3: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sheppard members can winter check cars at auto skills center

Sheppard personnel can now do winter checks on their cars at the auto skills shop.

The shop is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 1 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Exodus hours

Sunday through Jan. 3: closed

Jan. 4: Re-open at 9 a.m.

Team Sheppard gets creative

The ceramics shop offers lessons and guidance for ceramic projects. All the materials needed to start creative projects are available.

More than 2,500 craft projects are available for lessons with a variety of paints, glazes and supplies.

The ceramics shop is located in Bldg. 832, the health and wellness center

building.

Hours of operation are Wednesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Exodus hours

Saturday: Last day for firing.

Monday through Jan. 3: closed.

The ceramic shop will resume normal hours Jan. 4

For more information, call 855-0118.

Club activities

Officers club closes for Exodus

The officers club will be closed Saturday through Jan. 4.

Enlisted club to have drinks, peanuts

The enlisted club will have a boiled peanuts and drinks special in the sports bar Tuesday.

Enlisted club closes for Exodus

The enlisted club will be closed Wednesday through Dec. 28, Dec. 30 and Jan. 1.

ITT

Exodus hours

Saturday and Sunday: closed

Monday through Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday through Dec. 28: closed

Dec. 29 through Dec. 31: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Jan. 1: closed

Jan. 2: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Jan. 3 through Jan. 4: closed

Community center

Exodus hours

Today through Wednesday: Open 24 hours

Thursday through Dec. 28: closed

Dec. 29 through Dec. 31: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jan. 1: closed

Jan. 2: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jan. 3: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Jan. 4: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



-Chapel schedule- Parish Ministries

Protestant Services Sunday

Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., Bldg 962

Community Worship, 10:30 a.m., North Chapel

Inspirational Gospel Worship,

10:30 a.m., South Chapel

Holy Communion

Worship, 10:30 a.m.,

Hospital Chapel

Weekday Bible

Studies

Tue, 6:00 p.m. &

Thu, Noon, South Chapel

Protestant Men of the Chapel

Saturday, 6:30 a.m., south chapel
PMOC breakfast/fellowship is the second Saturday of the month at Golden Corral at 8 a.m.

Catholic Services

Saturday, confession, 4 to 4:30 p.m., north chapel

Saturday, Mass, 5 p.m., north chapel

Sunday, Mass, 9 a.m. and noon, north chapel

Calothic religious education, pre-K through adult, 10:30 to 11:40 a.m., Bldg. 962

RCIA, 6 to 8 p.m., Bldg. 962

Daily Mass: Monday and Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., south chapel

Tuesday, 5:15 p.m., Solid Rock Cafe

Thursday, 11:30 a.m., SRC

Protestant Religious

Education

Sunday school classes, Bldg. 962, 9 a.m.

Tuesday night Bible study, 6 p.m., south chapel

Thursday noon Bible study, noon (lunch provided), south chapel

Protestant Women of the Chapel Thursday night Bible study, 6 p.m.

Protestant Men of the Chapel Tuesday morning Bible study, 6 a.m.

For more information, call the base chapel at 6-4370

AAFES Holiday Exodus hours

Main BX

Dec. 24 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Clothing sales

Dec. 22 - 23 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dec. 29 - 30 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

South Shoppette

Dec. 24 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Jan. 1 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

North Shoppette

Dec. 26 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jan. 2 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Class Six

Dec. 24 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec. 26 - 27 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Jan. 2 - 4 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Dec. 31 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Mini Mall facilities

Dec. 20 - Jan. 3 Closed

Beauty and Barber Shops

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 Closed

Burger King

Dec. 24 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brandi Branch

Clockwise from left to right, Staff Sgt. C.D. Schmeid, Airman 1st Class Dustin Sharpmack, 1st Lt. Trace Dotson and Capt. Troy Panon display an 86-by-76-inch handmade American flag. The one-of-a-kind flag was designed and created by Iowa school students as part of the "Hand on America" project.

KC-10 crew flies flag of hope

By Airman 1st Class Brandi Branch

*380th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs*

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFP) – A KC-10 Extender crew at a forward-deployed location carried a special message of hope and peace on their flight over Iraq on Dec. 9.

As part of the project "Hands on America," the crew displayed from their boom window an 86-by-76-inch American flag hand-crafted by Iowa school students. In doing so, the crew became part of a larger effort to honor the victims of Sept. 11, 2001, and their families, and the continuing war on terror.

"Our hearts are large, and our voices loud. We want New York and America to hear our message," said Tracy Paxton, a teacher from Rivermont Collegiate School.

That message is conveyed through the one-of-a-kind flag's stripes and stars. Made up of hundreds of red handprints, the stripes reflect the involvement of every Rivermont student from 3-year-old preschoolers to high-school seniors. The stars bear symbols of hope, peace and love in 10 different languages.

This flag began its journey with former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Giuliani passed the flag to New York Fire Depart-

ment's Engine Co. 55, one of the first fire stations to respond to the Twin Towers terrorist attack.

Since then, the flag has flown in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Kansas, California and Texas. After a year of traveling the United States, the students decided to show their hand-crafted emblem of endurance to Iraq.

That is were the KC-10 crew came in.

Staff Sgt. C.D. Schmeid's mother heard on television the students were seeking suggestions to help decide the flag's next destination. She told them about her son's mission and suggested the flag fly with him aboard a KC-10. He is the flight engineer on the crew.

"At least 30 e-mails came in with well wishes and suggestions ranging from hanging it in each state capitol to hanging it in large airports and military hospitals," Ms. Paxton wrote to Sergeant Schmeid and the crew, "but your mother's idea stood out.

"We want you to know how honored we are that you and your family are helping us spread our message of hope and peace," she wrote. "In our minds, you are flying it for the victims and families of 9-11 as well as the victims and families of this war. By doing so, you too will become a part of this project and your message will be seen and heard as well."

Sinterklaas spreads holiday cheer at Wichita Falls day care center

Members of the Royal Netherlands air force spread some holiday cheer in Wichita Falls Dec. 5 with a visit to a local daycare.

Children at the Ben Donnell Day Care Center received gifts and a visit from St. Nicholas from the delegation stationed at Sheppard as part of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program.

Lt. Col. Eric Bogaards, the senior national representative, said money was donated by Dutch instructor pilots, student pilots and dependents. The gifts were given to the children by Sinterklaas — comparable to Santa in the U.S.A. — who is traditionally the giver of gifts in Europe.

After presenting the gifts, members of the Dutch Detachment sat down and enjoyed coffee and

cake/cookies with the Ben Donnell Day Care Staff, which also is a tradition.

Colonel Bogaards said the tradition to give presents to children who are in a less fortunate situation started many years ago, when the Dutch arrived in Wichita Falls to train their student pilots in the ENJJPT program. In those days, Dutch members were looking for a way to give something back to the local community as a token of our appreciation for the hospitality the Dutch contingent received from the local community.

The Ben Donnell Day Care Center on Wichita Falls' Eastside was brought to our attention and contact was quickly made. After consulting the day care staff, it was quickly agreed how we could best

support them and a tradition was born.

Doris Ingram, the director of the center, has seen members of the Dutch delegation bring presents to children for the past 22 years.

"We look forward to it every year," she said.

During the visit, Ms. Ingram said a member of the delegation would share the history of the holidays in the Netherlands.

But, the biggest part of the day is when the children receive their gifts from Sinterklaas. Ms. Ingram said staff members of the center can see the children's eyes light up.

"They're happy," she said. "I'm sure they're (thankful) for the gifts."

(Courtesy Netherlands Detachment of ENJJPT.)



Children at the Ben Donnell Day Care Center huddle around Sinterklaas Dec. 5 during a visit from the Royal Netherlands air force personnel stationed at Sheppard. The visit by Sinterklaas and the Dutch has been an annual event for at least the past 22 years.

Photo courtesy Royal Netherlands air force

Want to quit smoking today? Call the health and wellness center for information on smoking cessation classes at 6-4292.

Cook

Continued from Page 3

lates and exploits captured terrorists documents. Our instructors are working side-by-side with students to decipher and analyze real-world intelligence, thereby providing invaluable experience for the students.

What our airmen were able to accomplish during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom would not have been possible if not for America's ability and drive to exploit technology and spur innovation.

Among the extraordinary events we witnessed this past year, two come to mind as defining moments in our Air Force: the centennial observance of manned flight and the introduction of the F/A-22 fighter into our training inventory.

These events share a common thread in America's histo-

ry: Our enthusiasm and willingness to exploit technology and innovation to guard the freedom generations of Americans have sacrificed so much to secure for our nation.

For our Air Force, the seminal event that triggered the past century of rapid technological advancement began with the courage and bravery of the Wright brothers. This year's observance of the Centennial of Flight celebrates and honors those who made it possible for us to employ the awesome air and space power of today.

What began with a 12-second flight in the Wright's Flyer Number 1 on Dec. 17, 1903, has grown exponentially during the past century into America's unsurpassed commercial aerospace industry and the equally unsurpassed global air and space defensive power of the U.S. Air Force.

It is fitting, as we celebrate the deeds of those early air pio-

neers, we also mark the dawn of an exciting era in AETC and the Air Force with the introduction of the first operational F/A-22 Raptor into our training curriculum at the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

The command's first F/A-22 was delivered Sept. 26. Since then, we've received our second aircraft and expect to receive one additional aircraft every four to six weeks.

The F/A-22 is an order of magnitude leap in offensive and defensive airpower. With its first look, first shot, first kill capability, the F/A-22 is a national asset engineered to guarantee soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, and our allies and coalition partners, the great advantage of freedom from air attack, freedom to attack and freedom to return home safely.

The F/A-22 is essential to America's national defense strategy and will guarantee America's military air domi-

nance well into the future.

We have started our F/A-22 maintenance training and expect to launch the Raptor pilot training program this spring when enough aircraft are on hand. The mission-ready aviators and maintainers we produce will represent a new era in airpower – an era that begins on the heels of our nation's observance of 100 years of powered flight.

We are never far from our heritage as a flying and fighting force because aviation development is still a relatively modern phenomenon. To go from getting an airplane off the ground for the very first time to the tremendous capabilities the Raptor represents in less than 100 years is truly amazing.

Yet as great as the technological advances are, we have become the world's most powerful air and space fighting force because of our people – past and present. Whether it is engaging fully in the war on ter-

rorism, preparing F/A-22 aircrews and maintainers or teaching a new recruit to march for the first time, the men and women of AETC remain linked to our heritage and focused on the future innovations, technologies and techniques that will sustain us as the best Air Force in the world.

Thank you for the tremendous job each of you has done this past year for our command, for our Air Force and for our nation. As you prepare to celebrate this special season, I ask you to keep our colleagues who remain deployed in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers.

The men and women serving at the headquarters join Diane and me in wishing you and your family the very best during this holiday season. Enjoy time with your families and friends, but be safe. We need you on our team as we embark on what I anticipate will be another eventful year in 2004.

**Have a story idea or want to submit a story
for the newspaper? Call 6-7244 or e-mail
your suggestion to
sheppardsenator@sheppard.af.mil.**

Sports

Civil engineers steamroll comptrollers 55 - 30

Story and photos by Senior Airman Chris Powell

Senator sports editor

Ask anyone who knows sports, and they will tell you good defense usually beats good offense.

Well, the 82nd Civil Engineer Squadron under-30 basketball team used good defense and good offense to beat the 82nd Comptroller Squadron 55 - 30 Tuesday at the north fitness center.

The win brings the 82nd CES team to 1 - 0 and drops the 82nd CPTS team to 0 - 2 for the season.

"It feels great to be able to celebrate a win," said center Brandon Pruitt. "We had good passing and good shooting to help us win."

Right out of the gate, the civil engineers were playing up-tempo basketball with stingy defense.

After a jumper by center Brandon Pruitt, the civil engineers went up 7 - 0 with 13:05 in the first half.

The score only got worse for the comptrollers as they were down 24 - 12 at halftime.

"We need to play better defense and not let them have any easy baskets," comptroller guard Aaron Sams said during halftime.

But the defense never came as the civil engineers widened their lead to 51 - 24 with 6:50 to go in the second half.



Guard Aaron Sams hits a layup during the fourth quarter. Sams scored 13 points.



Jerry Barnett hits a three pointer during the 82nd Civil Engineer and 82nd Comptroller Squadron under-30 basketball game. Barnett scored 12 points, including three three pointers.

Airmen going on an 'Amazing Race'

By Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFPN) – Many organizations here have active group fitness programs. Some airmen head to the fitness center to play volleyball, while others go there and do timed push-ups and sit-ups.

Each month, Space and Missile Systems Center Detachment 11 and Electronic Systems Center Detachment 5 airmen come together for a group fitness day. Events typically range from football or basketball to soccer or volleyball.

During December, they developed

and organized a race adapted from the television reality game show "The Amazing Race." In the television version, teams race around the world competing in various athletic and mental challenges. Building on that premise, the airmen designed a course that took teams around the base to compete in a wide variety of challenges.

"The Amazing Race has what they call 'detours and roadblocks,'" said Capt. Josh Johnson, of Det. 11. "At a detour, a team must choose between one of two tasks to complete in order to advance to the next leg of the race. A roadblock is a task that only one of the two (team members) has to complete.

See **RACE**, Page 25



Photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen

Second Lt. Luke Grogan celebrates winning the last place rubber chicken award during a group fitness competition. Space and Missile Systems Center Detachment 11 and Electronic Systems Center Detachment 5 airmen designed a course that took teams around Peterson to compete in a wide variety of challenges. Six teams participated in the race based on the television reality show, "The Amazing Race."

Do you like sports and writing? Would you like to see your team in the Sheppard Senator? Help out by submitting stories about games or statistics to sheppard senator@sheppard.af.mil or call 6-1326.

RACE

Continued from Page 24

"We kept the detour concept exactly the same for our race, but since we have six teams with 20 members each, we had to modify the roadblock into a task that all team members had to accomplish."

The first step in preparing for the race was planning and laying out the course. Most of the events were planned to take place indoors to minimize the airmen's exposure to the elements in case of inclement weather.

"I was amazed at the overwhelming cooperation from all the base agencies I talked to," Captain Johnson said. "Once I explained what we wanted to do, everyone thought it was a great idea. A few people were huge fans of the TV show and were really excited about the concept."

After nearly a month of getting permissions, making reservations, building race props and training monitors, the race was ready to go.

"All six of our teams showed up at the fitness center and met at the starting line in the center of the track," Captain Johnson said. "Once we started the race, teams competed in a number of events, racing from point to point trying to get back to the fitness center as fast as they could."

Once the race started, participants received their first detour and either ran to the bowling center where they bowled for strikes and spares or they were off to the officers club to play waiter.

"At the ... club, the teams had to disassemble 32 place settings, move four tables across the room and then reset all the tables exactly as they were on the opposite side of the room. They weren't allowed to leave until everything was perfect," Captain Johnson said. "Once they finished that, they were off to the base auditorium for their first roadblock, which was an Air Force trivia challenge, followed by push-ups."

The teams were given tests on Air Force-related subjects. Once teams answered 10 questions correctly they were allowed to proceed to the push-up phase of the challenge; however, if they were wrong, a penalty was added to their race time.

Once the teams answered their questions, they received their second detour and were off to the parade field for a puzzle construction challenge or the base exchange for a scavenger hunt.

"At the parade field, we had 4-foot-by-8-foot puzzles that the teams had to find blindfolded. Once they found all the pieces, they could assemble the puzzle," Captain Johnson said.

At the BX, the scavenger hunt had the airmen look for things like cookbooks, paint thinner and balloons. Once they located all the items on their list, they received their second roadblock which sent them hunting for rooms in the dorms followed by sit-ups, he said.

The final detour of the race was a Frisbee disc throwing challenge or a stretcher-carry task.

"The teams had to move 11 Frisbee (discs) from one end of the base picnic grounds to the other end, without running or walking with the (disc) and without dropping (it)," Captain Johnson said.

"Once they had all 11 Frisbee (discs) at the end point, they headed back to the fitness center to cross the finish line," he said.

The stretcher-carry involved each team learning how to properly use a stretcher, then two team members had to use the stretcher to rescue the rest of their teammates. Once a team member was rescued, he or she was allowed to help rescue the others. After everyone was rescued, the team headed for the finish line, he said.

"We want to make it fun and interesting so our people look forward to coming out," Captain Johnson said. "We also wanted to pull off something really big since this was our last (fitness) event for the year."

"There are a number of people who benefit from the program," said Capt. Ali Highsmith, of Det. 11. "The benefit of these events is it brings out the competitive nature of our people. (They all seem) to enjoy going out and competing against their peers and supervisors. It gives them bragging rights."

"You don't have to be bored when you go to the fitness center to get in shape," Captain Johnson said. "With a little imagination and planning, you can put together something that everyone will have fun participating in."

National Guard celebrates birthday with run

By Army Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Members of the National Guard Bureau's joint headquarters staff celebrated the National Guard's 367th birthday a bit differently than in years past.

Most of them ran, and some of them walked two miles. Army Guard Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, in his first year as the Guard Bureau's chief, led the way.

About 250 Army and Air Guard people took part in the first birthday fun run and walk that was held here at Fort McNair near the nation's Capitol on Dec. 12. The run symbolized this year's reorganization into a joint service headquarters. There were none of the formal, congratulatory speeches of years past.

Guard members also paused to remember and pray for the 126,483 citizen-soldiers and airmen who are deployed to more than 40 countries, most of them engaged in the war against terrorism.

Many of those deployed troops will not be home for

Christmas, Blum said. They will be in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia.

And more than 40 Guard members will never spend another holiday season with their loved ones, Air Guard Chaplain (Col.) John Ellington observed, because they have died during 2003 while serving their country.

The birthday celebration was far more social than somber.

First, the guardsmen ran or walked in formation at Fort McNair, where Blum has his personal quarters and where the four flags carried by the honor guard snapped in a brisk breeze off the sparkling Potomac River.

Then they ate birthday cake and sipped coffee or punch at the Army Guard's Readiness Center across the river in Arlington, Va.

"We're going to have to keep on defending our freedoms, because when we stop defending our freedoms, we will lose," Blum said. "We will have Christmas on Dec. 25 whether we have the United States of America or not. But we won't have the Fourth of July next year

unless we earn it.

"For 367 years, National Guard citizen-soldiers and airmen have been making sure that we're going to have more freedoms to defend and more rights to enjoy than we did the previous year," Blum said. "We're not going to let down. Those generations who went before us and the generations who come after us are not going to point to us and say we were asleep at the switch."

The National Guard observes its birthday on Dec. 13, because that was the date in 1636 when about 1,500 members of the militia first mustered as the North, South and East Regiments in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The fun run and walk struck the right chord with those who took part.

"It was fun to go out and do something as a group," said Air Guard Lt. Col. Yalda Clegg, the secretary to the Joint Staff at the National Guard's headquarters. "It reinforced the idea of jointness, because we had Army and Air Guard people out there."

Bowling standings

Pos.	Team Name	Won	
1	365 TRS "C"	80	
2	82 COMM "A"	80	
3	882 TRG	71	
4	362 TRS "B"	68	
5	360 TRS	66	
6	82 CES	65	
7	366 TRS "A"	65	
8	363 TRS "Ammo"	64	
9	365 TRS "B"	62	
10	365 TRS "D"	62	
11	Bowling Pro Shop	62	
12	187 Med Bn	60	
13	383 TRS	58	
14	82 MSS/SVS	55	
15	381 Med Red	55	
16	382 TRS "A"	54	
17	82 Services Squadron	52	
18	363 TRS Armament	52	
19	82 CPTS	51	
20	382 "BMET"	51	
21	362 TRS "A"	50	
22	364 TRS "A"	47	
23	80 FTW "A"	46	
24	361 TRS	46	
25	364 TRS "B"	41	
26	82 CS "B"	34	
27	80th OSS	31	
28	SFS	24	

Sports shorts

Combo bowling held every Thursday

Combo bowling will be held every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at the south lanes.

For more information, call Donna Dobbins at 569-2430 or Vivian Umlah at 569-1619.

Rock It Bowl at the north lanes

A glow-in-the-dark Rock It Bowl takes place every Friday and Saturday night from 5 to 11 p.m. at the north lanes.

Volunteer Coaches

Persons interested in volunteering to coach youth soccer (ages 3-10) baseball (ages 3-16), softball (ages 9-12) or Operation Night Hoops Basketball (ages 13-18) may contact the Youth Center by calling 6-2342 for any necessary informa-

tion.

Volunteers must have a background check accomplished and undergo a few hours of very important training.

New youth program

The Youth Center is targeting a new program - body development - under the direction of Monte Sparkman. Monte is a champion weightlifter with numerous titles and records to his credit.

The program will deal with enhancement of body strength related to specific sports, improving awareness of health issues as well as improving self esteem.

The program will start in January when at least 10 teens have registered. For further information please contact the center at 676-2342.